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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/540,345	06/21/2005	Atsushi Sakamoto	81864.0067	6404
26021 7590 01/07/2008 HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P. 1999 AVENUE OF THE STARS SUITE 1400 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067				
			EXAMINER SHEEHAN, JOHN P	
			ART UNIT 1793	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/07/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/540,345	Applicant(s) SAKAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner John P. Sheehan	Art Unit 1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1 to 12 and 21 to 30, , drawn to a hard magnetic compound, characterized in that:

the hard magnetic compound is represented by a general

formula $R(\text{Fe}_{100-y-w}\text{Ti}_y)_x\text{Si}_z\text{A}_v$ (in the general formula, R is at least one element selected from rare earth elements (here the rare earth elements signify a concept inclusive of Y), Nd accounts for 50 mol% or more of R, and A is N and/or C); and the molar ratios in said general formula are such that $x = 10$ to 12.5 , $y = (8.3 - 1.7 \times z)$ to 12.3 , $z = 0.1$ to 2.3 , $v = 0.1$ to 3 and $w = 0$ to 30 , and the relation $(\text{Fe} + \text{Co} + \text{Ti} + \text{Si})/\text{R} > 12$ is satisfied.

Group II, claim(s) 13 to 16, drawn to a hard magnetic compound, characterized in that:

the hard magnetic compound is comprised of a compound represented by a general formula R-Ti-Fe-Si-A or R-Ti-Fe-Co-Si-A (in the general formula, R is at least one element selected from rare earth elements (here the rare earth elements signify a concept inclusive of Y), Nd accounts for 80 mol% or more of said R, and A is N and/or C);

the hard magnetic compound shows a single phase consisting of a hard magnetic phase; and

the saturation magnetization (σ_s) thereof is 120 emu/g or more, and the anisotropic magnetic field (HA) thereof is 30 kOe or more.

Group III, claim(s) 17 to 20, drawn to a hard magnetic compound, characterized in that: the hard magnetic compound shows a single phase consisting of an intermetallic compound in which the molar ratio of T to R (R is at least one element selected from rare earth elements (here, the rare earth elements signify a concept inclusive of Y), and T is a combination of transition metal elements indispensably including Fe and Ti) falls in the vicinity of 1:12; and Si and A (here, A is N and/or C) are located as interstitial elements in the crystal lattice of said intermetallic compound.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I, II and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: All of the above groups are directed to a hard magnetic compound but each group is directed to a different special technical feature not shared by the remaining groups. Group I is directed to a hard magnetic compound, having the special technical feature that the hard magnetic compound is represented by a general formula $R(Fe_{100-y-w}Ti_y)_xSi_zA_v$ (in the general formula, R is at least one element selected from rare earth elements (here the rare earth elements signify a concept inclusive of Y), Nd accounts for 50 mol% or more of R, and A is N and/or C); and the molar ratios in said general formula are such that $x = 10$ to 12.5 , $y = (8.3 - 1.7 \times z)$ to 12.3 , $z = 0.1$ to 2.3 , $v = 0.1$ to 3 and $w = 0$ to 30 , and the relation $(Fe + Co + Ti + Si)/R > 12$ is satisfied. Group II is directed to a hard magnetic compound, having the special technical feature that the hard magnetic compound is comprised of a compound represented by a general formula R-Ti-Fe-Si-A or R-Ti-Fe-Co-Si-A (in the general formula, R is at least one element selected from rare earth elements (here the rare earth elements signify a concept inclusive of Y), Nd accounts for 80 mol% or more of said R, and A is N and/or C); the hard magnetic compound shows a single phase consisting of a hard magnetic phase; and the

saturation magnetization (σ_s) thereof is 120 emu/g or more, and the anisotropic magnetic field (H_A) thereof is 30 kOe or more. Group III is directed to a hard magnetic compound, having the special technical feature that the hard magnetic compound shows a single phase consisting of an intermetallic compound in which the molar ratio of T to R (R is at least one element selected from rare earth elements (here, the rare earth elements signify a concept inclusive of Y), and T is a combination of transition metal elements indispensably including Fe and Ti) falls in the vicinity of 1:12; and Si and A (here, A is N and/or C) are located as interstitial elements in the crystal lattice of said intermetallic compound.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions

unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

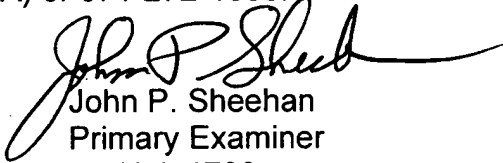
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Sheehan whose telephone number is (571) 272-1249. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (7:30-5:00) Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


John P. Sheehan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1793

JPS